

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINUTE REQUIRES TO BE APPROVED AS A  
CORRECT RECORD AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING AND MAY BE  
AMENDED**

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK/BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:** Councillors Douglas Reid, Jim McMahon, Elaine Cowan, Iain Linton, Graham Barton, Barry Douglas, Neal Ingram and Neill Watts; and Religious Representative: Babs Mowat; Parent Representative: John Semple; and Teacher Representative: Hazel Malakoty.

**OFFICERS PARTICIPATING:** Joe McLachlan, Chief Executive; David Mitchell, Depute Chief Executive; Linda McAulay-Griffiths, Director of Education and Skills and Chief Education Officer; Craig Young, Chief Governance Officer; Colin Hastings, Head of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; Iain Tough, Head of Corporate Support; Erik Sutherland, Interim Director Health and Social Care Partnership; Paul Toland, Head of ICT and Digital; Marion MacAulay, Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services; Amanda Lowe, Head of People and Culture; David Anderson, Service Manager - Partnerships & Estates; Simon Bell, Strategic Lead: Asset Investment; Kenneth McNamara, Service Manager: Staffing; Fiona Docherty, Group Finance Manager; Martin Smith, Senior Accountant; and Lynn Young, Democratic Services Team Leader.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Clare Maitland, Linda Mabon and Drew Filson; and Religious Representative Dr David Lewis.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of the Council.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. No declarations of interest were intimated by the Members participating in relation to the items of business on the Agenda.

### **EAST AYRSHIRE PERFORMS - SUMMARY REPORT**

- 2E. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Head of Finance and Chief Financial Officer which advised Members of a number of important performance measures as at 31 July 2026 (Period 4), which included the projected financial position for the year, progress of the capital programme, workforce and digital strategies.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to note the financial management position as shown in paragraphs 5 to 18 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the transfer of £0.180m from employability contingency funding to the Education service as per paragraph 10 of the report;
- (iii) to approve the transfer of £0.410m from centrally held budgets to the Health and Social Care Partnership to support escalated cases, as per paragraph 18 of the report;

- (iv) to note the additional re-profiling of Learning Estate Capital Allocations highlighted in paragraphs 19 to 26 of the report;
- (v) to note the contract figure exceeded the accepted tender value by more than 10% in respect of the refurbishment works at Kilmaurs Primary School as per paragraph 27 of the report;
- (vi) to note the contract figure exceeded the accepted tender value by more than 10% in respect of the window replacement programme at Logan Primary School as per paragraph 28 of the report;
- (vii) to note the contract figure exceeded the accepted tender value by more than 10% in respect of the pledge works at Galston Primary School as per paragraph 29 of the report;
- (viii) to note the information in respect of People highlighted in paragraphs 30 and 31 of the report;
- (ix) to note the information in respect of the Digital Strategy as at paragraph 32 of the report; and
- (x) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **SCHOOL TERM DATES 2027-2028**

- 3E.** There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Education and Skills and Chief Education Officer which (i) advised Cabinet of the outcome of a consultation exercise carried out in relation to school term dates for the session 2027/28, and school closure days, negotiated with the teaching unions, for the same period; and (ii) sought approval to implement the preferred school term date option along with the associated pattern of closure days for school session 2027/28.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) that Appendix I (Option 3) of the report be approved as the school term dates for school session 2027/28;
- (ii) that Appendix 2 of the report be approved as the school closure days for the session 2027/28;
- (iii) to note that it was normal practice to align the September weekend with the Ayr Gold Cup. We do not have confirmation of the Gold Cup weekend for 2027. Therefore, the September long weekend planned for Friday 17 and Monday 20 September 2027 are subject to change should the Gold Cup fall on another weekend; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2024-2027: UPDATED ACTION PLANS**

- 4E.** There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Chief Executive which presented for Members' consideration, updates to Action Plans contained within the 2024-2027 Service Improvement Plans for two Services aligned to the Chief Executive's portfolio.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the updates to the Action Plans set out in the 2024-2027 Service Improvement Plans for the following Services aligned to the Chief Executive's portfolio:-

- Education and Skills; and
  - Corporate Support;
- (ii) to note that the updated Action Plans for the remaining Services aligned to the Chief Executive's portfolio would be presented to the next meeting of Cabinet on 16 September 2026, and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Religious Representative Babs Mowat, Parent Representative John Semple and Teacher Representative Hazel Malakoty left the meeting at this point.

### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

5. Cabinet Resolved:- "That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Paragraphs of Schedule 7A of the Act as shown against each item".

### **PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR THE REALIGNMENT OF THE B778 ROAD SOUTH-EAST OF STEWARTON (PARA 9)**

6. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2026 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive which sought Cabinet approval to put in place a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the purchase of 6 parcels of land from 4 different landowners, to enable the B778 road to the south-east of Stewarton to be realigned.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Solicitor to the Council/Chief Governance Officer to put in place a Compulsory Purchase Order for the 6 separate parcels of land which had been identified as being required to facilitate the realignment of the B778 road to the south-east of Stewarton; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **FLEXIBLE RETIREMENTS/REDUNDANCIES (PARA 1)**

7. There was submitted a report dated 20 August 2026 (circulated) by the Head of People and Culture which (i) sought Cabinet's approval of flexible retirement applications in respect of three employees in accordance with the Council's Policies; and (ii) asked Cabinet to note the cost for three employees who had previously left the Council's service and were due a redundancy payment following approval under delegated authority.

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) to approve the flexible retirement cost for three Local Government employees, detailed within Appendix A of the report;
- (ii) to note the decision of the Head of People and Culture to approve the redundancy payment of three employees under delegated authority; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1120 hours.